



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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MAY 18, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INDEPENDENCE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSION, INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE METH

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Independence, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today for possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

Eric S. Poston, 26, of Independence, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this afternoon to possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

By pleading guilty, **Poston** admitted that he possessed with intent to distribute five grams or more of methamphetamine on Oct. 10, 2003. **Poston** admitted that he possessed a total of 19.1 grams of pure methamphetamine at the time of his arrest.

Law enforcement officers initially arrested **Poston** after conducting a routine traffic stop on a vehicle they believed to be stolen and that **Poston** was driving on Winner Road in Kansas City on Oct. 10, 2003.

Poston was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on April 7, 2004, in Kansas City.

Under federal statutes, Graves said, **Poston** is subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of five years and up to 40 years in federal prison without parole, plus a \$2 million fine. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael S. Oliver. It was investigated by the Jackson County, Mo., Drug Task Force.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow